

## BLOOD WITHOUT BOOTY.

An Awkward Attempt to Rob a Passenger Train on the Santa Fe Railroad.

Train Stopped at Coolidge, Kan., by a Band of Masked Robbers, and Two Men Killed.

The Engineer Killed on Sight, and After a Sharp Struggle the Fireman Falls, Shot Dead.

The news of the daring attempt at train robbery, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, at Coolidge, Kansas, Saturday morning, in which Engineer John Hilton was killed, and Fireman George Fadle was dangerously wounded, has caused the greatest excitement, and brought many to a realization of the good times passed and gone in Missouri.

Coolidge is a small eating station just over the Colorado line in Kansas, 469 miles from Kansas City and 116 miles from Dodge City, the nearest station of any importance. The train stopped fifteen minutes at Coolidge to change engineers and get a new engine, and the attempted robbery took place just as the train was about to pull out. Two men were engaged in the attempt and a third is supposed to have been present, but took no part. These two men were noticed on the platform when Conductor Greely called "all aboard," and appeared to be partly disguised. As the single to board was called, one of them stepped upon the platform of the express car, and the other climbed upon the engine. Almost immediately the firing began, and at this point the stories conflict slightly, as to whether the firing began on the engine or in the express car, but the most reasonable supposition seems to be the latter. As soon as the man on the express car opened the door, he was noticed by the conductor, who ordered him off, supposing him to be a tramp trying to steal a ride. The man had his revolver in hand and at once fired at Express Messenger Peterson; then another shot sent flying at the conductor, when Peterson secured his revolver and returned the fire. The man raised his revolver again but stumbled, and the bullet struck the top of the car, and the robber quickly retreated to the depot platform. At this juncture firing began in the engineer's cab. Two shots rang out and Engineer Hilton dropped dead shot through the head and heart. Five men Fadle took one glance at the situation and jumped on the platform, running towards the express car, when he was met by the first bandit, who fired upon him, the ball entering the neck. The wounded man staggered to the edge of the platform and fell upon his face.

The occurrences took place in the space of a very few minutes, and, before any effort could be made to intercept the would-be robbers, they had made good their escape. Outside of the express messenger, conductor, and the postal clerks there were no witnesses to the shooting. After the shooting, however, the passengers and a few citizens who were awake gathered around, but the trouble was all over.

The officials of the express company refused to state the amount of treasure on board, but from several sources it was learned that the usual consignment was at the way from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The rumor was current among the passengers, however, that there was one package of \$30,000 from Denver to Chicago, several thousand dollars in jewelry, and numerous small packages "C. O. D." collections, which is probably a correct statement of the case. These the robbers were unsuccessful in obtaining and they fled without booty.

LATER.—There were only three men connected in the attack, but it is presumed they had confederates near and that they intended to run the train out a short distance and then cut the express car loose and rifle it. Two of them mounted the engine, one from either side, and ordered the engineer to pull out. He replied that he would not move an inch without orders. The robbers instantly shot with the result before stated. The railroad company at once apprised their attorney in this city, and Deputy Marshal Mathes at once organized a posse and left on a special for the scene of trouble. The railroad company offered a reward of \$500 each for the capture of the scoundrels, and it is now reported that two of them have been captured and the party in close pursuit of the third.

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